

Green or sustainable building is the practice of creating healthier and more resource-efficient models of construction, renovation, operation, maintenance, and demolition.

From the Environmental Protection Agency's website:

Green or sustainable building is the practice of creating healthier and more resource-efficient models of construction, renovation, operation, maintenance, and demolition. Elements of green building include:

Energy: Designing and operating buildings to use energy efficiently and to use renewable sources of energy, including solar, wind, and biomass.

Water: Designing and operating buildings to use water efficiently.

Materials: Using building materials that, in comparison to competing brands, have a reduced effect on the environment throughout their life cycle (e.g. recycled content, low toxicity, energy efficiency, biodegradability, and/or durability).

Waste: Reducing the waste from construction, remodeling, and demolition.

Indoor Environment: Designing and operating buildings that are healthy for their occupants.

For more information, visit www.epa.gov/greenbuilding

Why build green?

According to the United States Green Building Council (USGBC), buildings have a profound impact on our natural environment, economy, health and productivity. In the United States, buildings account for:

- 36% of total energy use/65% of electricity consumption
- 30% of greenhouse gas emissions
- 30% of raw materials use
- 30% of waste output (construction debris)/136 million tons annually
- 12% of potable water consumption

Breakthroughs in building science, technology and operations are available to designers, builders and owners who want to build green and maximize economic and environmental performance.

For more detailed information, visit www.usgbc.org

Resources for more information:

- [Green Built Home](#)
- [The Not So Big House](#)
- [Wisconsin Green Building Alliance \(WGBA\)](#)
- [WasteCap Wisconsin](#)